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REMARKS

Applicants' invention provides a blower as recited in the pending, amended, and newly submitted claims.

One aspect of the present invention resides in a structure including a chamber 11 which, as shown in Fig. 3, accommodates electronic parts 13. As shown in Fig. 3, chamber 11 has a back portion (to the right of the drawing) adapted to be sealed by a removable cover 10.

As is apparent from the drawing, the rear side of the chamber is downstream of the front side thereof, and the opening therein is occluded by detachable cover 10.

With such a structural configuration, the invention provides several advantages. For example, electrical components 13 within the chamber can be protected from moisture, dirt, dusts or other harmful gas or substance contained in the blower wind.

Moreover, components 13 can be accessed easily from the rear side of the blower by simply removing the detachable cover 10 during ordinary maintenance.

In the pending Official Action, the Examiner notes allowability of claims 3 and 4. However, the Action rejects claims 1 under 35 USC 102 over Heyder et al. USP 6,270,320. It is the Examiner's assertion that in the '320 reference, a chamber is provided inside control housing 18 and that the back portion of the chamber is adapted to be sealed by a removable cover 18.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the following reasons.

It is noted that the recitation of claim 1 requires a back portion of the chamber to be adapted to be sealed by a removable cover.

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Upon studying the '320 reference in detail, however, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere does the reference disclose, teach or suggest a removable back cover.

Thus, it is first noted that at column 3, lines 58-60, the reference defines both "front" and "the flow direction S". Moreover, Fig. 2 provides a view of the axial fan which is described at column 3, line 34 as being "from behind" (corresponding to the downwind side at the right of Fig. 1). From Fig. 2, it is quite clear that the structure includes a control unit 17 having an opening 17', which is not closed and clearly not sealed by anything, much less by a removable cover. Thereafter, referring to the control housing 18 shown in Fig. 3, it is quite clear that the rear portion thereof (the bottom side of the figure) is permanently sealed and that nothing therein "is adapted to be sealed by a removable cover" as required by applicant's claim 1.

Indeed, as clearly disclosed at column 4, lines 27-30 of the reference, the structure therein provides "a control housing 18, which takes the form of a circular-annular tub, with the circular-annular tub *open toward the stator flange 15*" – i.e., open toward the *front*. Thus, if anything is adapted to be sealed, it would only be the front portion, and not the rear portion, of the chamber.

Indeed, the rear side of the "chamber" within housing 18 (the back of the paper on which Fig. 5 is drawn) is shown as rear portion 18' in Fig. 6, and this portion is clearly in a non-removable arrangement with its side portions, as seen in Figs. 6 and 7.

In summary, Heyder et al. discloses a control housing (18) having an opening at its front side (i.e. upstream of the wind).

However, the housing (18) does not have any cover at the front opening.

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Thus, the structure disclosed therein does not protect the electric components in the housing from moisture, dirt, dust or other harmful gas or substance contained in the wind.

Further, since the rear side of the housing (18) can not be opened, it is necessary to remove the entire control housing (18) from the stator flange (15) of the drive unit (12) when maintenance is required for the electric components in the housing.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that applicant's structure, as recited in claim 1, is not anticipated by the art applied thereto and that reconsideration is in order of the rejection. Inasmuch as the rejection of claim 2 relies on other art to teach additional features recited in claim 2, but not as a teaching of a housing having a rear side which is closed by a detachable cover, it is courteously submitted that the art applied to claim 2 fails to suggest, or to make obvious, the subject matter thereof.

The Amendment

Based on the foregoing, no amendment is necessary for claim 1. However, the claim is amended strictly for form, syntax and proper antecedence. That is, the second paragraph thereof, which recites two structural features, both related to the central portion of the frame, is revised syntactically by deleting "is", and is further revised to provide separate recitation of each feature, without adding or modifying the structure recited therein. Further, the revision adds antecedent support for "the central portion of the frame".

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Claim 2 is similarly amended. Moreover, the amended claim includes additional modification of the last paragraph thereof. The additional modification incorporates features of dependent claim 4.

Claims 3 and 4, which have been indicated as being allowable, are rewritten in independent form and are thus in condition for allowance. It is noted that, in each claim, the phrase "the chamber for accommodating electrical components" now unnecessarily refers to the components accommodated therein, repeating the recitation occurring in the immediately preceding paragraph. Accordingly, the duplicative recitation is deleted.

New claim 6 provides a revised recitation of claim 1 which includes changes similar to those hereinabove described with respect to claim 2. Accordingly, the recitation includes portions of the recitation of claim 3.

New claim 7 depends from claim 6 and provides explicit recitation that the "rear" portion of the chamber is the downwind portion thereof.

New claim 8 corresponds to claim 3 and depends from new claim 6. However, having incorporated features of claim 3 in claim 6, new claim 8 does not include the same features therein.

New claim 9 depends from claim 2 and provides explicit recitation that the "rear" portion of the chamber is the downwind portion thereof.


New claim 10 corresponds to claim 4 and depends from claim 2. However, having incorporated some features of claim 4 in claim 2, new claim 10 does not include the same features therein.

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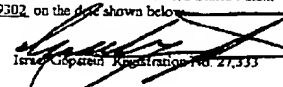
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is courteously solicited. In order to expedite resolution of any remaining issues and further to expedite passage of the application to issue, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed local telephone number if any further comments, questions or suggestions arise in connection with the application.

Respectfully submitted,



Israel Gopstein
Registration No. 27,333

P. O. Box 9303
Silver Spring, MD 20916-9303
(301) 438-9600
(301) 438-9700 (fax)
Date: October 14, 2002

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